

## AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Richard Holmes Allen, ninety-nine years old, who was born in Baltimore October 17, 1815, the son of Richard Allen and Jane Wilson, is thought to be the oldest colored man in Boston. He lives at 1 Hope place off North Russell street, West end.

"It was only the other day I made up my mind to tell my life story, for I wanted to wait until I was 100 years old, but everybody that comes to see me said I ought to tell it now," said Mr. Allen, who, in spite of his age, looks well, sleeps well and is without a pain or ache, except once in a great while when he has a slight attack of rheumatism.

Mr. Allen told the Globe reporter all about his war record, as well as his early life when he was very cruelly treated on a farm five miles out from the city of Baltimore. His story is as follows:

"My grandfather, grandmother and mother's two sisters were stolen from Africa and brought to Baltimore and sold in the Woodford jail.

"A sea captain by the name of George Thompson bought them and set my grandfather and grandmother free. My mother's two sisters were in the service of the captain's wife for 25 years.

"After my mother was set free I was born. My mother bound me to her mistress until I was twenty-one years old. Her mistress' name was Elizabeth Southcomb, and her husband's name was John Plummer Southcomb.

"In 1824 Captain Southcomb was lost at sea. I was put out with another man named Johnson—a white man, of course—in 1827.

"I endured great hardship while with him, for he treated me very cruelly. I stayed with him until 1835. He often came home drunk and abused me.

"Once he came home from the city, and being enraged at something that happened to him, he took revenge out of me. This time he locked me up in a smokehouse for an hour. It was in the month of August, and it was the hottest day that summer.

"He made a fire in the smokehouse. He called an old lame man named Stepney and told him I was baking to death in the smokehouse. Then he opened the door and called for me to come out, but I didn't come out fast enough to please him.

"He had an idea that Mr. Stepney would highly approve of his cruel action of me, but he didn't. Instead, Mr. Stepney and Johnson got into an argument, Stepney telling him he had no right to treat me in such a cruel manner. Mr. Stepney, as a result of the argument, struck old man Johnson several blows, knocking him down.

"I was a small boy when I became free, and started out to make my own living. I have been with all kinds of people in my years, bad and good, with sailors, gamblers, thieves, and have been with the very best people in the world.

"In 1863 I came to Boston and enlisted to fill up the quota of Ward six under John S. Damrell. At that time I served in the Fifth cavalry. I am a member of Grand Army Post Robert Bell, whose headquarters are on Joy street.

"During the Civil war I served in the Bucktail regiment of Pennsylvania under Captain Taylor. I was with my regiment at the battle of Bull Run, I

also at another time served with the Fifth Wisconsin regiment."

Mr. Allen pointed with pride to his uniform, musket and other war utensils, and said that when he died he will be buried in his full Grand Army uniform.

Mr. Allen does not work, living on the pension he receives, and he says it is quite enough, even in these hard times. He has a son and daughter living, Miss Rachel Allen and Jacob Allen.

Almost 8,000 young men and women, including 1,200 Indians, have already gone from Hampton institute into the South and West, equipped in body, mind, and heart to help their race get land; build better homes, schools, and churches; and improve social and economic conditions. Many of the Hampton students have literally reconstructed, in many places, the existing community life and have brought prosperity to men and women by helping them increase their earning power, and showing them how to use to the best advantage the resources at their doors.

Hampton institute aims to train Negroes and Indians to earn an honest living and serve unflinchingly and unselfishly their respective races. The best white people throughout the South and West testify that Hampton has realized its aims and that they are firm believers in the value of the so-called Hampton idea of education.

Hampton institute has set the pace for that form of vocational education which fits young people to work with skill and persistence, and also gives them a broad and sympathetic outlook on life. For 45 years under the efficient leadership of Gen. Samuel C. Armstrong and Dr. Hollis B. Friesell, Hampton institute has been training boys and girls for safe and sane leadership in business, in home-building, in improving church, home and social life throughout the South and West.

J. E. Thompson of Clearview, Okla., which is one of several prosperous Negro settlements, represents the idea of big business among Negroes. Thompson controls 5,000 acres of farm land; furnishes employment throughout the year for many members of his race; grows crops that are worth selling, and brings the market to his products; employs the methods of scientific farming, and preaches the doctrine of keep a pushing.

The son of a slave woman, he began at the age of thirteen to farm. Today, at the age of fifty-five, Thompson actually owns 1,800 acres. He raises mules, horses, hogs and cattle. This is in contrast to his condition in 1871, when he stood on the porch of a renter's hovel, and looking longingly with his sister into a garden full of mustard, sighed: "If we only had some meat, we could cook it in plenty of mustard."

Logan Morgan, who lives within four miles of Muskogee, Okla., finds that no color line is drawn in the market against his 12 and 14-ounce Alberta peaches, which bring \$2 a bushel in the orchard. His 21 years of experience in the Southwest have taught him the value of remaining quietly at work and of producing among other crops "peaches that can't be beat."

Morgan was married 20 years ago when he had only six bits and an \$18 pony. Now they own 1,400 acres of land.

A large, rich deposit of phosphate has been discovered in the valley of the Hausco river, about three hundred miles north of Valparaiso. Government engineers are preparing a report thereon, and it is believed to be of much importance, since the use of phosphate on the farm of Chile is increasing rapidly with good results.

A New York homeopath, speaking at the recent convention in Atlantic City, said that conserving the eyesight was a phase of health conservation often overlooked. He said that 50 per cent of the blindness in this country was due to conditions that might have been avoided.

According to figures published by the Monetary Times of Toronto, the sum total of American investments in Canada was \$636,904,000 in 1913, as compared with \$417,143,000 in 1911, and \$279,075,000 in 1909.

Eleven surveying parties will be sent out this year by the United States Geological Survey to investigate the mineral resources of Alaska.

During the National Negro Business league convention at Muskogee, Okla., it was stated that 2,000,000 Negroes living in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas now have under their control, as owners and renters, about \$300,000,000 worth of farm property and own 60,000 farms, containing 6,000,000 acres of land, with farm property, land, live stock and farming implements worth \$200,000,000.

Eight million of the colored people of the South still live in the country districts, sometimes in the ratio of six or seven to one white man.

Steel water mains which have been in constant use at New Bedford, Mass., during the last 17 years, have recently been inspected and show evidence of a life of more than forty-five years before corrosion destroys them.

An apple tree owned by S. W. Alexander of Los Angeles, Cal., is exciting interest through the fact that, in the last year, it has had two crops, giving each time a different variety of apple.

## BIDS REQUESTED ON THE CAPITOL

PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITOL BUILDING TO BE OPENED JAN. 14TH.

### CHIEF AIM TO PREVENT DELAY

All Bids to be Submitted to Legislature With Recommendations and Suggestions From Capitol Commission.

Oklahoma City.—The contract for the construction of the State capitol will be submitted to the forthcoming legislature for its approval or rejection, according to announcement by Chairman W. B. Anthony of the capitol building commission.

Bids for the construction of the building proper have been called for by the capitol commissioners. The bids will be received on January 14, while the legislature is in session. Figures given in all of the bids will be tabulated by the commission and a statement and recommendations submitted to the legislature. The commission, it is announced, will not officially accept any bid or enter into a contract for the erection of the building until after the legislature has been given complete information concerning every bid submitted to the commission.

The commission placed advertisements some time ago calling for bids, but they were recalled for various reasons, one of which was that many of the contractors who wanted to bid on the work would not have had the time, it is said, to gather the necessary information concerning prices of material, etc., by the time the commission called for the bids, which was on December 17.

After the new advertisements were given out, Chairman W. B. Anthony of the commission gave out the following statement:

"The reason why the commission decided to change the date for opening bids for the completion of the state capitol from December 17, 1914, to January 14, 1915, was the fact that attention of the commission had been called to the necessity for an extension of time to enable bidders on the job to complete their figures, owing to the great difficulty in getting satisfactory recommendations upon the Oklahoma stone and other materials to be used.

"It was the original intention of the commission to receive bids up to December 17, and at that time to open and tabulate all the figures and prepare a recommendation to submit to the legislature when it meets in January and to request its advice as to whether or not the contract should be made in accordance with the commission's decision.

"The extension of time for receiving bids will not change this policy for it is the intention of the commission as soon as possible after the bids have been opened to decide which, in its opinion, is the lowest and best bid, and to request the advice of the legislature as to whether a contract shall be entered into in accordance with the specifications and bids.

"This policy of the commission has not been one of delay or loss of time, but one made necessary in conserving the best interests of the State. In fact, it has been the policy of the commission from the time it was organized to facilitate, as far as possible, its work, and being prompted by the desire to complete a capitol for the people of the State in the very shortest time possible, the work of constructing the foundation and sub-basement frame and a basement floor slab was undertaken and has proceeded with such rapidity, efficiency and economy as will certainly command the approval and commendation of every taxpayer of the State who feels a sufficient interest in the matter thoroughly to investigate the facts and form his opinion therefrom.

"It has been, and is, the policy and ambition of the members of the capitol commission to make a new record in the construction of a capitol by saving several years of the time usually consumed in the construction of such work, realizing that the early completion of the capitol will result in a great saving to the taxpayers, both in the matter of rent for quarters for State officials, as well as the expenses of the capitol commission, and other expenses incident to long delays and slow construction that have characterized the construction of most other capitol buildings."

All of the work originally planned to be done by the commission before letting the contract for the main building is about completed, and the commission, it is announced, will do nothing further except what is done with the advice and approval of the legislature.

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